5 Jan 1970

Dear Harold:

Tut, tut. A whole foot of snow in Maryland. And all at one time! Learn to live with it and you'l find it great. Up here we have as many snowmobiles as you have snowflakes, so that will give you an idea of what SNOW is. And cold. We havn't had a thaw since mid-November-- but that's good, too, since I set up an ice skating rink in my back yard for the neighborhood kids. Oh well, you should know better than to complain to somebody living in Canada.

I have a load of correspondence from you, not all of which requires answer.

Curry's book: Received this in good shape and read it quickly-- no surprizes. Later I may send you a few notes on it.

Tell me the cost of the book, so that I can pay you for it.

I agree with Roffman that the picture of the TSBD window was doctored, but think it may have been done by publisher for contrast.

Agreed also that Curry incorrectly designates the fragment "from Connaly's arm.

As with most such things, the book is self-serving. Curry seems well aware that the FBI was playing strange games, and I was glad to see him casting aspersions at them. I hope this will be the harbinger of a new phase of activity in which all seek to cast blame on the others. Inevitably, of course, Hoover will come up smelling like a lily.

Requests to Hoch: I sent Paul money for my copy of Coup add and for a copy for you.

I also requested he send me a copy of Coup, since what I have is a carbon, and some documents are missing.

Brener's book: Your memo on this is my first knowledge of Brener or his book. I requested that Hoch send me either a copy of the book, or a proper bibliographical reference so that I can order it from publisher or bookseller. When I get it I'll respond to your memo.

Roffman and Dr Fisher: I am not aware of the contents of correspondence, but from your letter to Roffman, I'll bet Fisher is lost to him.

Keyholing: Right, Connaly's back wound shows no evidence of this. It should if bullet were tumbling or yawing. The bullet that hit C in the back was stable, as far as I am concerned. I am not sure whether an unstable bullet would have the same "keyholing" effect on skin as it has on paper-- in fact, I think the effect would be somewhat different from the effect on paper. I feel quite sure, however, that the effect on skin would be something other than a small, neat hole that is characteristic of a wound of entry.

Houts' book on Helpern: I'll watch for this and buy it for you if I see it. The cost is not great; less than $1. If you get one in the meantime it will be no loss to me, since I would like a second copy.

Finck and front neck wound: As indicated in my memo re Finck's N.O. testimony, I agree it is not necessary to imply that he saw the wound. If ir is true that he did not see the wound, I regard it equally certain that the wound was cut out before he saw the neck area. We know by other means-- and I think with absolute certainty-- that the wound was visible, clearly visible, when JFK's body was on the table at Bethesda.

I think, however, that by now (and probably even very early in the game) Finck knows that there was a wound of entrance in the front neck, even though he didn't "see" it.

Jesse Jackson in Playboy: excerpt concerning Ray and MLK killing is enclosed.

Eckhoff of Archives: Eckhoff is back on the ball (or is it out from behind the 8-ball?). Enclosed is his latest to me, indicating your 399-base photo turned up.

CE's 562 and 564: Nichols not responsible for matters relating to these exhibits; I am. I sent him some info shortly after my trip to you, when we got cartridge case pictures. You may remember that I noticed the discrepancies while at your place when comparing our cartridge case photos with the pictures in the exhibits.

My letter to Nichols on this is encluded here. On this basis he got good photos from Archive and sent them to us. I had subsequent correspondence with him, but the basis of the matter is contained in this letter.

After the initial disclosure of findings, the problem was related more to photography than firearms. Roffman gave good support for what I had in mind-- best of all he eliminated ~~xxxxxxxxx~~ the relevance of certain factors that had caused me to back off my initial asserton that both photos came from same negative.

I can't yet estimate importance of disclosures concerning these exhibits except as means to embarrass and discredit Frazier-- I think there is more to it than that, but I can't yet guess what.

When I get time, I'll try to do a proper memo and explain what is going on with these pictures. You had requested this for Fensterwald, but I have been too busy to get to it.

In any case, understand that all of what Nichols is doing with these came from me. He prepared the proper photos, but I gave him the info. This occurred when his was the only suit in the works.

Must stop now.

A few cigars may be on the way soon. A friend of mine may be going into the States in about a week. I have gotten terribly hooked on them, althought I never enjoyed cigars very much before. Tried an "H. Upmann" the other day, and did not much care for it-- also it was expensive as hell, about as much for one as I pay for five of Reas.

Still,

Dick

cc Schoener